

Con & Christine Bios

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15th May 2019

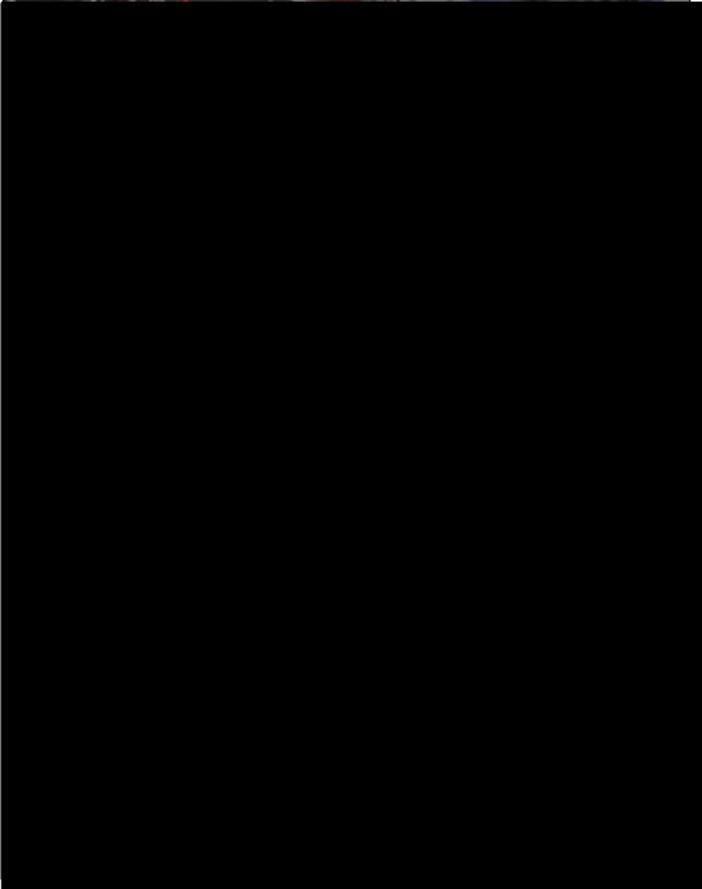
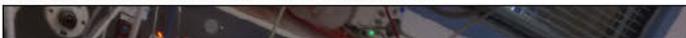
The Secretary
Legislative Council
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House Spring St
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

INQUIRY INTO THE COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLE INDUSTRY ACT 2017 REFORMS

PLEASE USE OUR NAMES AND PUBLISH OUR STORY

We wish to begin our submission by the cause and effect the Andrews Government Taxi Reforms have had on our family -

This is my husband Con Bios on the 4th January 2017. This is OUR STORY this is what the Andrews Government caused -



My husband Con and I worked on average 2 jobs each. I worked in a factory for years on end and my husband worked night shift in order to earn better income so that we could be self-funded retirees and to never be a burden on the public system.

We have 2 sons and we felt that we were a tag team whereby I would work during the day as did my husband, I would go home to look after my family at night but my husband would come home briefly then leave again working night shift in order to establish ourselves. My husband would work on average 16 hours a day including weekends where he could get any additional hours.

A number of our friends, spoke to us about the Perpetual Taxi Licences and how these were regulated and a safe investment especially for our future. It was well known that The Honourable Jeff Kennett at the time cleaned up and regulated the Industry which proved successful.

After this validation and encouragement, we purchased 2 Perpetual Licences initially and saved to purchase the 3rd one. We worked and worked and paid off all 3 Perpetual Taxi licences. This provided us with the opportunity to retire and enjoy the fruits of our hard work. We were living of the income the Licences provided us which in turn assisted us in providing for our family.

We felt we did our hard work to society and established ourselves and our retirement and felt safe that we would now never need to depend on anyone for our income WRONG...

During the 2014 Victorian State Election, Daniel Andrews attended a number of stakeholder meetings whereby he promised that if we as an Industry voted him in, he would ensure that the Taxi and Hire Care Industry would be safe and that he would never ever do anything to destroy us.

Clearly is a very BIG Liar. We fell for his lie and voted him in BIG MISTAKE on our part.

Jacinta Allan the Transport Minister at the time was dragging her feet which in turn unsettled the Industry. The TSC then started blind folding and allowing the illegal Uber entry and slowly but surely destroying the Industry. Because of this the Assignment fees started to plummet because of the Andrews Government and the TSC's inaction to enforce the law again the illegal Uber.

As our income was dropping, we decided to consider purchasing one more Licence to make it our 4th one simply to assist with increasing our income. I guess substituting for our loss.

BIG MISTAKE as we cashed in my husband's only superannuation of \$307,000.00 and purchased our 4th Perpetual Taxi Licence which gave us that little bit more substituted income. Just to be clear our decision to proceed to purchasing the 4th Perpetual Licence was based on the promise Daniel Andrews made to our faces, that he would never ever destroy the Taxi Industry and that he would look after us. This 4th Perpetual Licence resulted in us now not only losing our 4 Perpetual Taxi Licences but also my husband's only superannuation. This has financially crippled us.

Then came that announcement that the Andrews Government were going to revoke our licences.

The Andrews Government proceeded to taking away our 4 Perpetual Taxi Licences -

- The Andrews Labor government paid DISMAL transition (not compensation) of \$100,000 per licence for the first licence and \$50,000 each per licence for three subsequent licences to a maximum of \$250,000 and a \$1 levy per trip was raised, to cover transition cost.
As we have all asked, what were we transitioning to poverty??? Because the reality is that is all we have transitioned to.
- Daniel Andrews Labor government then proceeded to issuing licences for the nominal fee of \$52.90 and at 31 January 2019 licences issued increased to 11,807 taxi licences and 50,152 hire car licences. How is that fair.
- **The 'Unfairness fund'** was established to support the many cases of severe hardship. What a joke and an absolute LIE. We attended the Information session that has been set up by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. That session was nothing beyond a complete debacle as [REDACTED] addressed us by saying and to quote –
 - There is no criteria for the Fairness Fund and
 - There will be no appeal process

Many questions were asked at this supposed Information Session however, they could not or would not answer any of the questions. So why did they bother putting us through this further distressing session.

[REDACTED] arrogance was beyond belief. It was yet another stressful and demoralising session. In fact, one of the audience had fainted at the session from the stress to which Medical Emergency had to be called in.

The Andrews Government were leasing out annual licences for \$23K and just prior to the reforms commenced, the TSC started refunding the \$23K to annual licence holders and re-issuing to them for \$532 per annum. Of course this impacted on our assignment fees, being our income, as drivers were leaving us to go to the TSC for \$532. This behaviour and action by the Andrews Government and TSC was definitely not a fair playing field.

After the announcement that the Andrews Government was going to revoke our, what we believed to be Perpetual Taxi Licences (forever) my husband Con started experiencing anxiety attacks on his chest. We believed it was the stress related and kept an eye on him. This progressively got worse resulting in Con having to URGENTLY undergo a triple by-pass to his heart. Photo above. If you cannot be affected by that photo, then you are not human. We sent this to Jacinta Allan and Daniel Andrews..... clearly they gave no thought to this. This is what is called the Andrews Government cause and effect.

Con ended up having urgent operation on the 4th January 2017 resulting in him being in a coma for over 6 days. Just imagine now what this was like. Thankfully after weeks Con survived but of course, this has left him with many scars emotionally and physically.

As for me, the stress has seen me develop a condition of scleroderma, which affects my skin, my lungs etc. This is a terrible disease which has rendered me unable to work. I had been hospitalised 4 times for my condition.

Today both my husband and I are unable to work as we are both incapacitated due to our poor health. As a result of us losing our assets and our income, we have had to go to Centrelink and basically beg for assistance. Unfortunately this too has been disastrous as we are still waiting to see if we can obtain any assistance, if any. We were advised to use the transition money before we are entitled to anything. Seriously???

I worry for my husband's mental health as he is not coping with this destruction. I try to be as strong as possible to help him but I struggle myself.

This Andrews Government has totally destroyed our family, our lives and have shown absolutely NO mercy in what they have created.

Jacinta Allan once said "**NO VICTORIANS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND**". Well Jacinta Allan not only have we been left behind but we are destroyed emotionally, physically and financially and you Jacinta Allan and Daniel Andrews are the cause.

Kind regards

Con & Christine Bios

